

# COVID-19

## Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Guidance for Restaurant Diners

**Here is what to expect when you eat at a restaurant**

### **All customers:**

- **Will be expected to wear a mask except while eating or drinking.**
  - You will need to wear a mask when you line up to get food for pick-up or take-out, when you arrive for indoor or outdoor dining, or if you get up from your table for any reason during your meal.
    - Your mask must have at least two layers of tightly woven, breathable material. It must fully cover your nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of your face and around your nose.
  - The only exceptions are children under 2 or anyone who has been told by a doctor that they cannot wear a mask safely. Note that people with most underlying conditions (asthma, for example) can safely wear masks but if you cannot, go to the DPH [mask](#) page to learn about alternative face coverings.
- **Will be asked to comply with social distancing**
  - If you have to line up for take-out make sure your party stays six feet from others on line and from staff.
  - If you have small children with you keep them close by, maintaining their six-foot distance from other diners and staff.
  - If you plan to dine at the restaurant you will be required to follow the restaurant's rules for placement of tables and chairs.
- **Should remember to practice good hand hygiene.**
  - Wash and/or disinfect your hands before arriving at the restaurant, after using the restroom and again when you leave.
  - Check ahead to see if the restaurant only takes credit cards so they can practice contactless payment.

### **Customers dining outside:**

- **Will be permitted to dine with up to 6 people from up to 3 households**
  - You will not be seated until everyone in your party is present. You will also be asked to affirm that the people in your group are from no more than 3 households
  - Your table will be placed at least 8 feet from any other table. This ensures 6 feet between diners at different tables and allows servers to move among tables without too much crowding.
    - Don't move your table or move around the dining area to visit other tables.
    - Make sure children in your group stay at your table.
  - Consider ordering your meal in advance to limit face to face contact with your server and shorten your waiting time at the site.
  - Keep your mask on while you select and order your food. You can remove your masks when you are ready to eat or drink.
  - If you leave your table to visit a restroom or consult with staff during your meal, wear your mask and try to keep your distance from other diners and from staff as you move through the space.

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### Customers dining inside

- **Will be permitted to dine with up to 6 people from a single household.**
  - You will not be seated until everyone in your party is present. You will also be asked to affirm that the people in your group are all from a single household.
  - Your table will be placed at least 8 feet from any other table. This ensures 6 feet between diners at different tables and allows servers to move among tables without too much crowding.
    - Don't move your table or move around the dining area to visit other tables.
    - Make sure children in your group stay at your table.
  - Consider ordering your meal in advance to limit face to face contact with your server and shorten your waiting time at the site.
  - Keep your mask on while you select and order your food. You can remove your masks when you are ready to eat or drink.
  - If you leave your table to visit a restroom or consult with staff during your meal, wear your mask and try to keep your distance from other diners and from staff as you move through the space.

**So many of us have missed the pleasure of eating out for the past year. Now it is up to all of us to make it work.**

- If a server or other staff person reminds you about social distancing or wearing a mask, remember that they are protecting you and your party, the other diners, themselves, and the public. They are doing their job.
- Don't ask staff to turn on a TV or to let you sit at a closed off table. These are rules the restaurant must comply with by law.
- Adhere to rules noted above; they are simple, and they are based on science. They reflect research from all over the world about what it takes to stay safe.

**Have a great meal, have fun, and stay safe.  
Bon appétit!**